

From: Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US
Sent: 4/27/2012 3:12:07 PM
To: David Sternberg/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
CC: Daniel Ryan/R3/USEPA/US@EPA; Jennie Saxe/R3/USEPA/US@EPA; Michael Kulik/R3/USEPA/US@EPA; Terri-A White/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Subject: Re: Fw: Letter from Senator Inhofe

FYI: Here is an AP article about the comments from the Region 6 administrator:

EPA official apologizes for use of word 'crucify'

RAMIT PLUSHNICK-MASTI

The Associated Press

HOUSTON - A top administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has apologized for using the word "crucify" two years ago when describing the agency's enforcement policies, and for saying it makes examples of bad players in the oil and gas industry.

EPA Region 6 administrator Al Armendariz, who oversees Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana and New Mexico, issued a written apology Wednesday after video surfaced of him at a meeting in May 2010 in the tiny town of Dish.

The video shows Armendariz answering a question about the agency's enforcement policies. In the Middle Ages, he tells the crowd, the Romans would enter a troublesome village, "take the first five guys they saw and crucify them." Then the town would be "really easy to manage for the next few years," he said.

The EPA also makes "examples of people who are not complying with the law, you make examples out of them, use it as a deterrent method," Armendariz continued. "Companies that are smart see that and they don't want to play that, and they decide at that point that it's time to clean up."

To some Republicans and conservatives, the comments justified their long-standing allegation that the EPA under President Barack Obama has stepped up enforcement to a point where it is harming the economy and the energy industry. The EPA also has become a popular target on the campaign trail, and Republican presidential contender Mitt Romney has in the past called for EPA chief Lisa P. Jackson to be fired.

Armendariz's apology was issued Wednesday by the EPA's headquarters in Washington.

"I apologize to those I have offended and regret my poor choice of words. It was an offensive and inaccurate way to portray our efforts to address potential violations of our nation's environmental laws," he said. "I am always and have been committed to fair and vigorous enforcement of those laws."

Cynthia Giles, the assistant administrator for enforcement and compliance assurance, also issued a statement.

"Strong, fair and effective enforcement of the environmental laws passed by Congress is critical to protecting public health and ensuring that all companies, regardless of industry, are playing by the

same rules," she wrote.

Dish is a town north of Dallas where residents' concerns over the environmental impacts of a new method of gas drilling helped put the issue on the national stage.

Testing showed some groundwater contamination and elevated toxic air pollution after operators began using a new method , a combination of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, and horizontal drilling , to extract once out-of-reach natural gas from impermeable layers of the Barnett shale.

The EPA helped test the town's water and air, and the drillers changed some methods. Armendariz traveled to the town of 200 people to talk to residents.

On Thursday, at the White House press briefing, press secretary Jay Carney was asked whether Armendariz's comments proved that the EPA's enforcement practices were unfair, such as in Pennsylvania, where testing has shown that allegations of groundwater contamination caused by fracking are false.

Carney denied that. He said Armendariz's comments were "inaccurate as a representation of, or characterization of the way that the EPA has operated under President Obama."

Oil and gas production on federal lands and waters have increased since Obama took office, he said.

Later Thursday, Republican Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott issued a statement saying the administration was "more worried about aggressively advancing its radical agenda (than) fostering job growth and expanding our economy."

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Associated Press writers Dina Cappiello and Anne Gearan contributed to this report from Washington.

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Cc: Terri-A White/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Daniel Ryan/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Jennie Saxe/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 04/27/2012 02:51 PM
Subject: Fw: Letter from Senator Inhofe

Mick,

FYI. Note item 16.

David

----- Forwarded by David Sternberg/R3/USEPA/US on 04/27/2012 02:48 PM -----

From: Angela McFadden/R3/USEPA/US
To: David Sternberg/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 04/27/2012 01:06 PM

Subject: Fw: Letter from Senator Inhofe

----- Forwarded by Angela McFadden/R3/USEPA/US on 04/27/2012 01:05 PM -----

From: John Armstead/R3/USEPA/US
To: Angela McFadden/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 04/27/2012 09:42 AM
Subject: Fw: Letter from Senator Inhofe

Regards, John

John A. Armstead, Deputy Director
Water Protection Division (3WP00)
US EPA Mid-Atlantic Region 3
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Visit the Mid-Atlantic Healthy Waters blog to have your voice heard: <http://blog.epa.gov/healthywaters>
215.814.3055 (Office)

----- Forwarded by John Armstead/R3/USEPA/US on 04/27/2012 09:42 AM -----

From: Catherine Libertz/R3/USEPA/US
To: Jon Capacasa/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Linda Boornazian/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, John Armstead/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 04/25/2012 12:13 PM
Subject: Fw: Letter from Senator Inhofe

FYI

----- Forwarded by Catherine Libertz/R3/USEPA/US on 04/25/2012 12:12 PM -----

From: Jennie Saxe/R3/USEPA/US
To: garvin.shawn@epa.gov, Early.William@epamail.epa.gov, Catherine Libertz/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Ron Borsellino/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Kathy Hodgkiss/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Cecil Rodrigues/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Michael Kulik/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 04/25/2012 11:40 AM
Subject: Fw: Letter from Senator Inhofe

FYI. Mostly regarding Region 6, but Dimock is mentioned towards the end of the letter.
Jennie

----- Forwarded by Jennie Saxe/R3/USEPA/US on 04/25/2012 11:38 AM -----

From: Pamela Janifer/DC/USEPA/US
To: Cassaundra Eades/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Kathy Mims/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: Sandy Fells/R8/USEPA/US@EPA, Joanne Rodman/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Cynthia Fanning/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Gregory Peck/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Matthew Klasen/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Randy Deitz/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Jennie Saxe/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 04/25/2012 11:10 AM
Subject: Letter from Senator Inhofe

Ladies -

Please assign this letter to OECA as lead for response. Also, please cc: Region 3, Region 6, Region 8, ORD, OGC, OW and OSWER.

Pamela Janifer

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